



SPORTS & RECREATION

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TIME OUT!

Where's the support?



Commentary by
Jennifer Hartwig
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

As I look around the sidelines at the Hunter intramural football championship game, I see a lot of things. Two teams vying for the title? Check. Two coaches? Check. Four referees? Check. Hunter commander to award the trophy? Check. FMWR sports staff? Check. Reporter with a camera? Check (that's me). Fans? Not so much.

I understand that people are busy – believe me, I understand. But the fact that there were less than 10 supporters watching the championship game made me sad. These players worked their butts off all season, play through injuries and work around their extremely busy working schedules, yet there is no one there to cheer them on.

Right out of college, I was the sports reporter at Fort Belvoir, Va. My life revolved around intramural games, youth sporting events and other installation-centric athletic events. Last week at Hunter, while covering the football game, I felt like I was back at my old job and I was loving it. But the major difference was the crowd support. At Belvoir, there were routinely 30-40 people watching each intramural game, and even more for the championships; at Hunter, most of the people watching were paid to be there.

Now, I realize that Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Belvoir are very different installations. Here, there are combat arms troops with a high operational tempo, constantly deploying and redeploying. But it is because of that difference that I expected the unit support of their teams to be immense.

Soldiers — go watch your battle buddies lay it all on the line for unit esprit de corps. Family Members — if your spouse is on a team, go to the games and cheer them on. Civilians — witness the people you work with leaving it all out on the field for unit or directorate pride.

I may have been disappointed at the turnout at the Hunter championship, but I certainly wasn't disappointed in the play. The Hunter Firefighters and Savannah Marines had some great athletes out on the field. Both quarterbacks, Marine Cpl. Michael Marvin and Firefighter Robert Gordon had good arms and quick feet; Marine Staff Sgt. Gregory Rayburn has two interceptions in the game, and I was astounded by the speed of some of the receivers.

And I want to tip my hat to the Marines — you were very gracious winners, and that is a trait that is hard to find these days.

But fans, we can make it right! The Fort Stewart intramural football playoffs will take place beginning at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 1-3, with the championship on Wednesday. On Nov. 9, the Hunter Champions, the Savannah Marines, will take on the Fort Stewart champions. The game is at Hunter's Squire Complex at 6:30 p.m. — be there! Come out to support your team, your unit and your installation. Family Members and civilians, remember: this is your installation, too!

Marines defeat Firefighters in Hunter gridiron championship

Jennifer Hartwig
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The Savannah Marines took the Hunter Army Airfield Intramural Flag Football title, defeating the Hunter Army Airfield Firefighters, 25-24, Oct. 21.

But it wasn't easy for the men of the Corps, who battled injuries and the life of the military to take the trophy.

"We had an up and down season," Marine team captain Dominic Pittman said after the game. "We had a lot of injuries, a lot of Marines on temporary duty throughout the season."

The lack of continuity in their lineup showed early, as the Firefighters got on the board first, with an 11-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Robert Gordon to Will Greenan in the end zone. The extra point was blocked by Michael Marvin, and the Firefighters were on top, 6-0.

Later in the first half, the Marines tied it up when quarterback Marvin connected with Dustan Griffin in the end zone for a 17-yard touchdown. After the extra point was intercepted, the score stood knotted at 6-6.

On the ensuing play, the Firefighters took back the lead.

Beginning on their 30, Gordon connected with Reggie Crawford for a 30-yard gain. From the 10 yard line, Gordon found Robert Lamar in the end zone despite double coverage. They took the 12-6 lead after yet another missed extra point.

In keeping with the back-and-forth theme of the game, the Marines tied the



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Marine Quarterback Michael Marvin looks to throw a pass while avoiding a sack, during the Hunter Army Airfield Intramural Flag Football Championship, Oct. 21. The Savannah Marines defeated the Hunter Firefighters, 25-24.

game going into halftime.

At first and goal on the 20, the Firefighters were called offsides, giving the Marines five extra yards. Marvin's attempt at a touchdown pass was incomplete, but yet again the Firefighters were giving away yards, when pass interference was called on the defense, giving the Marines first and goal from the 7. Marvin scrambled back, but found an open lane to the goal, and took the 7-yard keeping in for the score, and bringing the game to 12-12 entering the half.

The Firefighters started the second half on the offense, but Gordon threw an interception to Gregory Rayburn on the Marine 15-yard line. The Marine defensive back took it 28 yards before being taken down by Geordan Grant.

But a block in the back negated the return, bringing the ball back to Marine's 3-yard line. Marvin chipped a short pass to Dominic Pittman, who turned on the jets and took it 55 yards to the house.

For the first time in the game, the Marines connected on the extra point.

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3rd HBCT prepares for game against CSU

Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. — The Soldiers picked to represent the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in the Doughboy Classic have spent months looking forward to today.

More than 120 eager volunteers braved 120-degree weather to try out for the team at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, Iraq. Forty of them will be allowed to dress out for the historic game against Columbus State University.

"It was hot, and there was a lot of dust, but it brought us closer together," said Sgt. Brannon Cochkerham, a cornerback assigned to Headquarters Troop, Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "Really, just being out in Iraq together built a lot of camaraderie. The football team was something we could focus on, and when we came out of there, we all felt like brothers."

According to Pfc. Hung Thanh Wagner, a left tackle assigned to Headquarters Company, BSTB, the team left Iraq and returned to Fort Benning at the beginning of August ready to improve and get better.

Coach Jason Gibson, the coach of the Columbus Lions, was eager to see what he would be coaching and pushed his players to see what they were made of.

"Coming straight from Iraq, it was tough," said Spc. Josh Matthews, a middle linebacker assigned to HHC, BSTB. "We were in shape but not in football shape."

As Gibson saw his team work, he identified who would be playing which positions and began implementing his playbook and system in practice.

"It was so well organized that it made the transition from combat to football easy," said Spc. Matthews. "When you think about it, football is just another type of combat with objectives and assignments. I think that made it easier for us understand."

As the playbook was memorized and the Soldiers began to execute the plays and schemes more fluidly, Gibson watched them come together. As he became more comfortable with his new team, he began to add more and more to their playbooks.



Sgt. Ben Hutto

During an inter-squad scrimmage at Doughboy Stadium on Fort Benning, Ga., Spc. Emmanuel Batson (right), looks for running room, Oct. 8. A team consisting of 3rd HBCT Soldiers will play the Columbus State University club football team as part of the DoughBoy Classic, today at Doughboy Stadium.

"He built us up step by step," said Pfc. Wagner. "He brought a professional attitude, and it rubbed off on us. I think because a lot of us worked with each other in Iraq, a lot of the teamwork we had developed made jelling easier. I never felt lost or overwhelmed. We didn't have a hard time picking up everything."

As their one and only game of the season approaches, Capt. Tim Smith, a quarterback assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, says he and his teammates are becoming more and more focused on what they need to do.

"I think everyone is excited about the game, but no one wants to see this experience end," he said. "We were ready for this two months ago. I think we all have been thinking about getting out there and beating some tail. Every practice, our guys have been getting after it with one goal in mind: beating Columbus State."

Captain Smith explained that this game is more than winning or losing.

"We have been working very hard and are extremely motivated to represent 3rd Brigade," he said. "All the blood, sweat, pain, bumps and bruises will be worth it if we can go out there and be perfect in every aspect of the game. We may not achieve that, but that is the goal. This team is synced in and we are all one heartbeat. Now, we just want the opportunity to show what we can do and make our unit proud."

Stay within the regulations this hunting season

Justin Chafin

Stewart-Hunter DPW Wildlife Biologist

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield is home to a wide variety of wildlife for everyone to enjoy. For the hunting enthusiasts among us, fall is the time when our thoughts turn to the woods, and the abundant game animals we love to pursue. Whether you enjoy wing-shooting for doves and ducks, sharp-shooting for wily squirrels, or matching your wits with deer and feral hogs, there is a season for you.

Stewart-Hunter is home of the United States Army's 3rd Infantry Division and provides approximately 280,000 acres for training Soldiers. However, when training areas are not being used for military maneuvers, many of them can be made available for recreation. Many outdoorsmen take advantage of the opportunity to hunt and fish here. This installation takes great pride in the fact that it has been open to the public for hunting and fishing since 1959. We can also take pride in our excellent safety record, and we want to ensure that safety remains a top priority.

As hunting season approaches, please be aware of the safety risks that can exist when spending time in the field. Heat and dehydration can be a problem, especially in the early part of the hunting season. Make sure to drink plenty of fluids before, during, and after hunting trips. Any time a hunting trip is planned, family or friends should be made aware of when you are leaving, where you are planning to hunt, and when you anticipate returning home. While traveling to and from hunting locations, be sure to keep all weapons unloaded and ammunition separated from weapons (it is a violation of Fort Stewart Regulation 420-4 to travel with a loaded weapon or discharge a weapon from a road).

If you plan to hunt from a tree stand, use extreme caution when climbing up and down the tree. Follow manufacturer's recommendations, and always wear a safety harness when you hunt from an elevated position. A wide variety of effective and comfortable models are available at sporting good stores. It is also a good idea to have access to



Stewart-Hunter Fish & Wildlife Staff

Sergeant Major Charles Christenbury, Georgia National Guard, poses with his trophy buck at a hunter's check station in fall of 2009.

some form of communication while in the field in case of an emergency.

Stewart-Hunter's automated phone check in/out system will only allow 1 hunter per 100 acres to check into a given area. For example, the system will allow 20 people to check into a 2,000 acre area. Although this system keeps training areas from becoming overcrowded, encounters with other hunters are not uncommon while in the field. Try to respect other hunter's space, wear plenty of hunter's orange and always be sure of your target and what may be behind it. When attempting to harvest game, please be sure you take a safe and ethical shot.

As you enjoy the great outdoors, keep safety and your fellow outdoorsmen in mind. Practice leaving no trace behind, and try to leave your hunting/fishing area better than you found it. For more information on hunting and fishing on Stewart-Hunter, please visit our Web site at www.stewart.army.mil/dpw/FW.asp.



Tommie McArthur

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Golf Pro



Hole #10—A sharp dogleg right Par 4 to start your second nine. A well placed tee shot in the middle of the fairway is key. You have several options off the tee, from a driver down to a mid iron. One of the smallest greens at Hunter requires accuracy on your short iron second shot. Plan are to play for a par on go to #11 tee.



Hole #11—A mid iron tee shot is all you want here on the sharp dogleg left Par 4. Aim to the right side of the fairway to avoid being blocked out by the trees on the left, but not too far right. A second shot with a short iron to a green that slopes to the right. Any shot hit to the right half of the green will roll off into the fringe. Good luck making any putt on this green.



Hole #12—On this straight Par 4 you must avoid two pine trees in the left center of the fairway. Either go over or around these two trees to give yourself a relatively short iron to a small green. Hitting too much club off the tee can get you in trouble with a ditch about 200 yards off the tee, and trees that sneak in on you from both sides. This green is narrow and deep. Depth perception and obtain the proper yardage is a must.

Illustrations by Mark Geary, Fort Stewart Public Affairs Contractor

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Marvin took in the 3-yard keeper, which would prove to be the difference in the game, and gave the Marines the 19-12 lead.

On the next series, the Firefighters scored on a 60-yard pass to Darrel Stoney, but yet again Rayburn was in the right place at the right time, knocking down Gordon's pass.

On their next possession the Marines made it 25-18 with a 10-yard touchdown reception by Rayburn.

But the Firefighters continued to fight, scoring on their next series. Back-to-back-to-back completions started the play—a 10-yard pass to John Richardson was followed by a 10-yard pass to Reggie Crawford, then a short pass to Lamar, who turned it into 25 yards.

On second-and-goal from the 5-yard line, Gordon kept it to himself and took the ball into the end zone for the score.

Looking to tie the game with the extra point, Gordon's 3-yard pass attempt was intercepted by Jeffrey Radcliff.

One point proved to be the difference in the championship, and the Marines, who defeated the regular-season champion 473rd Quartermasters in the semi finals, left the gridiron as Hunter's top dog.

During the awards ceremony following the game, Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar, Hunter garrison commander, showed pride in the joint nature of Hunter Army Airfield.

"It's great to have combined arms on this installation," he said to the Savannah Marines after their win.

Despite being down five players in the championship game, the Marines were able to forget about their past inconsistencies and stick to their game plan.

"We just wanted to play mistake-free," Pittman said. "We're a passing team and we kept with that tonight. The line blocked well and the receivers got open."

But he made sure to note that their opponents didn't make it easy.



Jennifer Hartwig

The victorious Savannah Marines pose for a picture with Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar after defeating the Hunter Firefighters 25-24 in the intramural flag football championship, Oct. 21.

"The Firefighters are a good team," he said. "It wasn't an easy win for us."

The Savannah Marines will take on the Fort Stewart

champions in the 3rd Infantry Division 2010 Flag Football championship, to be held at Hunter's Squire Complex at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 9.